



Family Bulletin



**Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
Fort Dix, New Jersey**

Issue 7

April - June 2003

Preamble

This is the seventh in a series of newsletters designed to provide information on military benefits to families of the Fort Dix legal team. The support that our families provides is critical to our ability to provide quality legal services to the Fort Dix community. This newsletter is a small token of our appreciation for that support.

Since September 11, 2001, over 20,000 soldiers have mobilized or demobilized at Fort Dix. Our legal team has provided legal counseling and advice to each of these soldiers. To assist with this mission, fourteen judge advocates and paralegals from the 1079th Garrison Support Unit have put their lives and civilian careers on hold in order to join our legal team. In addition, dozens of other reserve judge advocates and paralegals have helped us out for periods ranging from a few days to a few weeks. This support has been absolutely essential to our ability to accomplish our mission. Simply put, we could not have done it without you.

On behalf of the Colonel David Woycik and the rest of the Fort Dix legal team, I would like to thank each of you for the support you have provided us. If you have any comments on this newsletter, please send them to me at peter.masterton@dix.army.mil.

LTC Pete Masterton
Fort Dix Staff Judge Advocate

JAG Picnic

The annual JAG Organization Day picnic is scheduled for June 10th at 1200. All JAG family and friends are welcome to join us for an afternoon of good food, drink and entertainment. Please join us!



Life Insurance Coverage Is Automatic By Law

Public Law 107-14, effective November 1, 2001, made Family SGLI coverage automatic for all Armed Forces Active and Reserve service members who have a spouse. Spouse means a husband or wife, regardless of the fact that the spouse may not be registered in DEERS as a spouse or the spouse is Military married to Military, on Active Duty or is in a Reserve Component (Guard/Reserve Unit) or is Retired from the Armed Forces.

If the sponsor has a spouse the spouse is covered for \$100,000 until such coverage is reduced or declined in writing on the SGLV-8286A form. A copy of the SGLV-8286A showing the decline must be filed in the sponsors 201 file and the election must be entered by the local personnel office, who has access to the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) Webpage.

The responsible agency that provides DFAS with deduction/collection data is DEERS/DMDC. That agency has all the spousal data and information. If the spouse is not registered in DEERS no deduction will be made by DFAS until such time as the spouse is registered in DEERS as a SPOUSE to the member.

Space Available Travel Privileges

The Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Transportation Policy) has approved a one-year test to evaluate the expansion of space available privileges for dependents traveling within the Continental United States (CONUS).

This test began on 1 April 2003 and will end 31 March 2004. This test will allow dependents of active duty and retired uniformed service members to travel space available with their sponsors within the Continental United States (CONUS). Dependent travel will be limited to DOD owned/controlled fixed wing aircraft only.

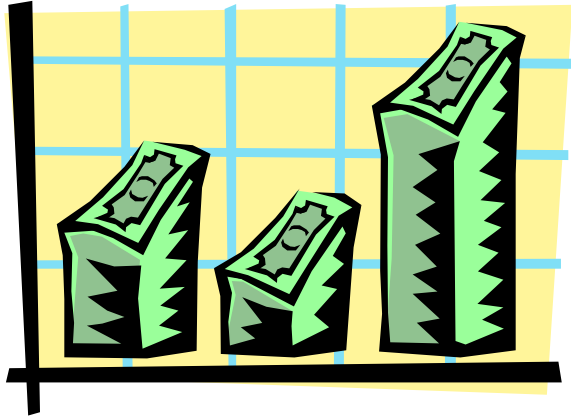


Space available sign up for this test began effective 1 April 2003. Retired members may sign up 60 days in advance. Dependents must travel with their sponsor and will assume their sponsor's travel priority. Active duty uniformed services members must be in a leave or pass status to register for space available travel, remain in a leave or pass status while awaiting travel, and be in a leave or pass status the entire period of the travel.

For information on space available travel, contact your nearest Air Mobility Command (AMC). The McGuire Air Force Base AMC passenger terminal may be contacted at (609) 754-2864 or 2749.

Thrift Savings Plan

A new Thrift Savings Plan open season for service members and civilian employees began April 15 and will run to June 30. TSP offers investors the chance for lower income taxes each year they contribute while not incurring taxes on earnings until they retire.



Military members can contribute up to 8 percent of their base pay. They also may invest up to \$12,000 a year of their bonuses or special pay, except that those serving in tax-free combat zones are allowed up to \$40,000 annually.

Military members can enroll through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site at <http://www.dfas.mil/emss/> or at your local finance office. The Fort Dix Finance Office may be reached at (609) 562-4877. Further information is on the Thrift Savings Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/>.

Free Admission to Seaworld, Busch Gardens & Sesame Place

Anheuser-Busch recently announced it will give free single-day admission to its SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Sesame Place parks to active duty military, active reservists, U.S. Coast Guard, National Guardsmen and up to four of their direct dependents, beginning the Friday of Memorial Day weekend and concluding Veterans Day, Nov. 11. The offer also has been extended to all coalition forces serving with U.S. troops in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Operation Salute" will give free admission at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay; Busch Gardens Williamsburg; SeaWorld Orlando; SeaWorld San Diego; SeaWorld San Antonio; and Sesame Place in Langhorne, Pa.

Discounts Available to Military

A number of companies are offering discounts to military personnel and their families this summer. Airlines, hotels, cruise lines amusement parks and other business are offering special discounts and free services as a result of their service to the country. Click on the link below to find these discounts.

http://www.msnbc.com/modules/exports/ct_email.asp?news/907858.asp.